

The Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a nationwide surveying effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor students' health risks and behaviors in six categories. The YRBS is conducted every two years among a representative group of Indiana students in grades 9–12. Below is an overview of this topic's key findings.

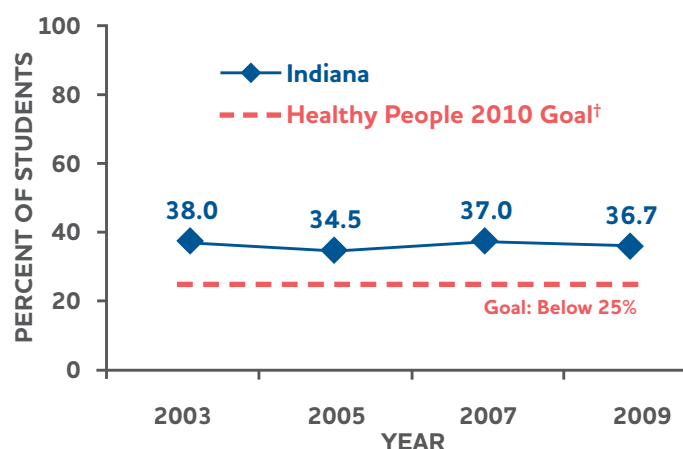
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Early sexual activity is linked to a wide variety of negative life outcomes including unwanted pregnancy, increased rate of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS infections, increased single parenthood, and increased maternal and child poverty.

KEY POINTS

Compared to 2003–2007, Indiana high school students in 2009

- Were as likely to have had sexual intercourse in the past three months, and continued to not meet the national goal of less than 25% of students being sexually active (Figure)
- Were as likely to have *ever* had sexual intercourse; about half of high school students have had sex at least once in their lifetime
- Were as likely to have had sexual intercourse before the age of 13 years
- Were as likely to have had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their lifetime
- Continued to report high rates of having been taught about HIV/AIDS infection in school
- Continued to use condoms only about 60% of the time during sexual intercourse, despite high rates of education about HIV/AIDS risks

FIGURE. Percent of high school students who have had sexual intercourse in the past three months—Indiana, 2003–2009



Changes in Sexual Behaviors

Percentage of Indiana high school students who	2003	Indiana 2005	2007	2009	Compared to 2003–07, students in 2009 were
Have had sexual intercourse in the past three months with one or more people (Figure)	38.0	34.6	37.0	36.7	Just as Likely
Have ever had sexual intercourse	48.8	44.5	49.1	49.2	Just as Likely
Had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 13 years	—	—	5.4	4.5	Just as Likely
Have had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their lifetime	—	—	13.3	13.7	Just as Likely
Had ever been taught in school about HIV/AIDS infection	92.2	91.9	89.3	89.6	Just as Likely
Had sexual intercourse during the past three months and used a condom during their last sexual intercourse	55.4	62.6	57.1	58.0	Just as Likely

TAKE ACTION — What you can do to help protect high school students from poor choices concerning sexual behavior

- Communicate with adolescents about sexuality, including encouraging abstinence, and educating them about ways to prevent unwanted pregnancies and getting STDs
- Have sexually active adolescents regularly screened for STDs
- Encourage communication between parents, doctors, and adolescents about vaccines against certain STDs, such as Human Papillomavirus (HPV)